



The YMCA-YWCA held its 7th annual "Stay in Newfoundland and Labrador" career fair at the Holiday Inn on Portugal Cove Road in St. John's Tuesday. One of the exhibitors seeking out potential employment candidates was Pennecon Energy Ltd. of Paradise. Betty Nolan, an executive assistant with Pennecon, chats with Thomas Ferdinand of St. John's, who is retired from the Canadian military and is seeking post-Military employment in the field of logistics. Seen at rear are Pennecon employees Brenda Gaulton (left) and Cassandra Tucker. — Photo by Joe Gibbons/The Telegram

EMPLOYMENT

Keeping jobs and people home

YMCA-YWCA career fair aims to fill local needs

By MALLORY CLARKSON
SPECIAL TO THE TELEGRAM

A hundred hopefuls came to the YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon's 7th instalment of the "Stay in Newfoundland and Labrador" career fair Tuesday.

Attracting high school graduates and seniors alike, organizers of the fair expected to maintain their success rate of a couple hundred jobs filled each year — not just any jobs, local jobs.

"People are generally looking to live in Newfoundland and Labrador. They want to be at home and working in a career that gives them the lifestyle that they're accustomed to," event co-ordinator and employment liaison, Krista Bareke, said.

She said career fairs are a great way to access the hidden job market, which counts for 80 per cent of all listings.

There were 29 kiosks at the fair, ranging from office jobs and trade schools to RCMP, army and navy recruitment.

Cassandra Tucker was one of the three women working the Pennecon kiosk, which had a constant stream of people looking for information.

"Today has been a great success. It's been the most people I've seen ever," she said.

Tucker, who is on a work placement with Pennecon, said because her company is contract-based, it tries to attract local employment.

The companies weren't alone in the search for good employees — people were also hunting for good employers.

"It's a great opportunity to find a job and at least find out about the company — get more information on the company," said Terri Chaschin, a second-time career fair visitor.

She said her job hunt has been successful so far.

Some people came to get an idea of the different jobs available.

"It's good exposure to different industries I haven't seen before," Thomas Ferdinand said, adding although he wasn't looking for one job in particular, he found a couple of good leads.

Nathan Menchions said he was a first-time visitor just looking for a full-time job.

"There are three or four places I've found (here). So, it's interesting," he said.

Although the organizers find it hard to keep track of feedback after the fair, Bareke said she frequently hears from people who were looking for jobs at the career fairs saying they have found employment and thanking the YMCA-YWCA for hosting the event.

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